DC
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SUPERMAN
IN ACTION
ICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
1994
44
DEAD AGAIN!
MICHELINIE, GUICE AND RODIER
ERADICATING THE ERADICATOR!
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GUEST-STARRING THE
OUTSIDERS

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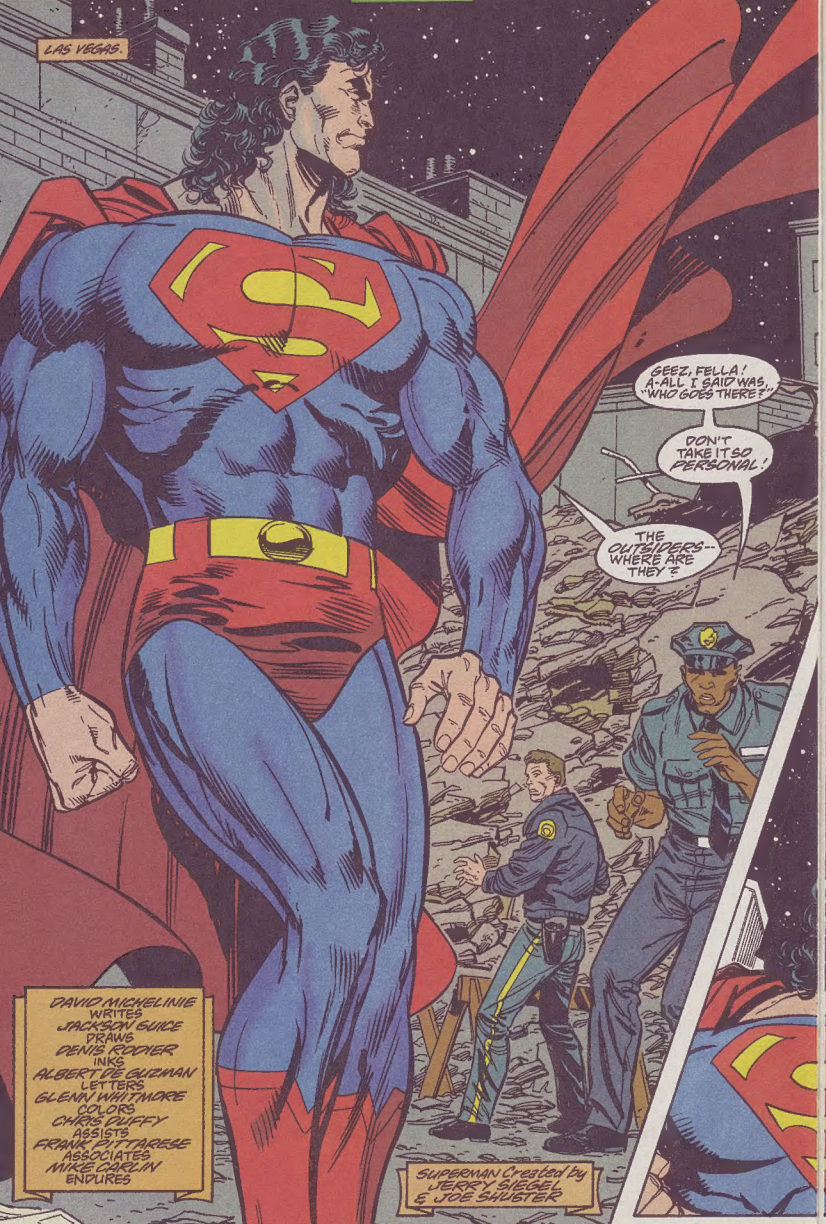
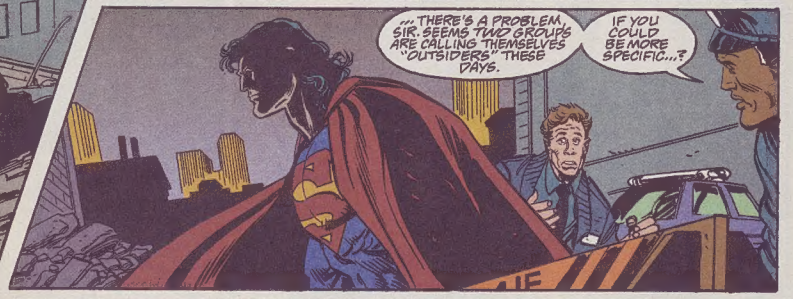

LAS VEGAS.
GEEZ, FELLA! A-ALL I SAID WAS, "WHO GOES THERE?"..
DON'T TAKE IT SO PERSONAL!
THE OUTSIDERS-- WHERE ARE THEY?
DAVID MICHELINIE WRITES
JACKSON GUICE DRAWS
DENIS RODIER INKS
ALBERT DE GUZMAN LETTERS
GLENN WHITMORE COLORS
CHRIS DUFFY ASSISTS
FRANK PITTARESE ASSOCIATES
MIKE CARLIN ENDURES
SUPERMAN Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

HOW SHOULD WE KNOW?!
EASY, NICK. THE OUTSIDERS' TRASHING THIS WAREHOUSE WAS ALL OVER THE NEWS.*
DOESN'T TAKE A STRETCH TO FIGURE THE L.V.P.D. MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT. BUT...
* AND IN OUTSIDERS #12.


...THERE'S A PROBLEM, SIR. SEEMS TWO GROUPS ARE CALLING THEMSELVES "OUTSIDERS" THESE DAYS.
IF YOU COULD BE MORE SPECIFIC...?

THE ERADICATOR!
I'M... LOOKING FOR THE ONES LED BY THE ERADICATOR.
AH. I BELIEVE THEY HEADED SOUTH BY SOUTHEAST.
BUT IF YOU'LL GIVE ME A SECOND, I'LL CHECK WITH HEADQUARTERS AND--

MMm...
SHWOOOSHHH
..WHOA! WHAT'S UP HIS CAPE? DOESN'T ACT LIKE THE SUPERMAN I'VE READ ABOUT.
MIGHT NOT BE "SUPERMAN" AT ALL!

I HEARD THEY FOUND A CORPSE IN SUPERMAN'S TOMB IN METROPOLIS-- AN' SCIENTISTS PROVED IT WAS THE REAL THING!
WOW. THAT HAPPENED TO ME, I'D BE TICKED, TOO!

THAT WAS RUDE, UNCALLED FOR. BUT THOSE POLICEMEN WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND. CAN'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE--
--THEN COME BACK TO FIND FOUR IMPOSTORS TRYING TO TAKE YOUR PLACE!
AND NOW, A LOT OF FOLKS WONDER IF I'M A FIFTH FAKE!
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY--!
THE ONLY WAY TO LAY THOSE SUSPICIONS TO REST IS TO FIND WHOSE BODY WAS IN MY TOMB, AND WHO PUT IT THERE...
...AND WHY!
BUT UNTIL THEN, I HAVE TO CLING TO THE ONE THING I KNOW WITHOUT QUESTION!
I'M THE REAL SUPERMAN!

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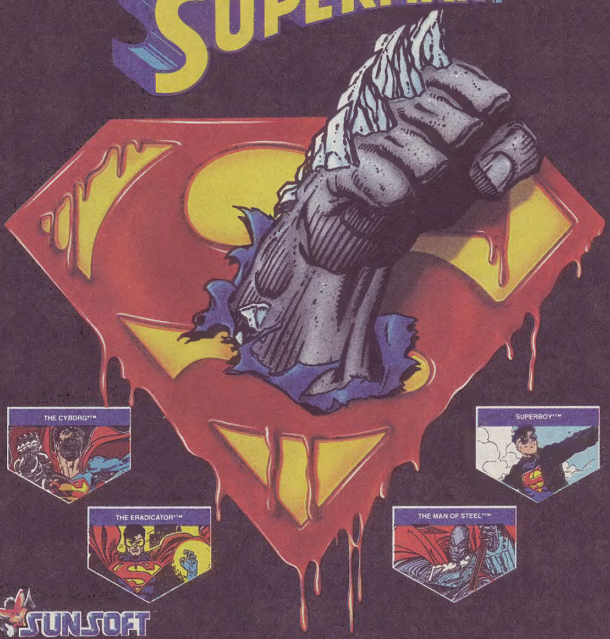

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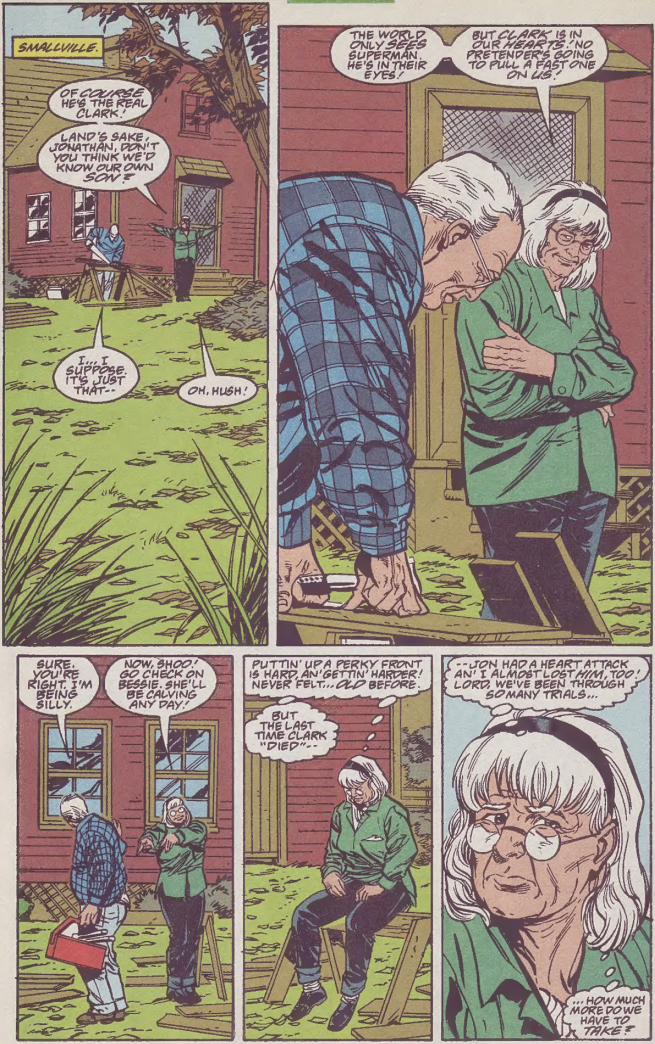
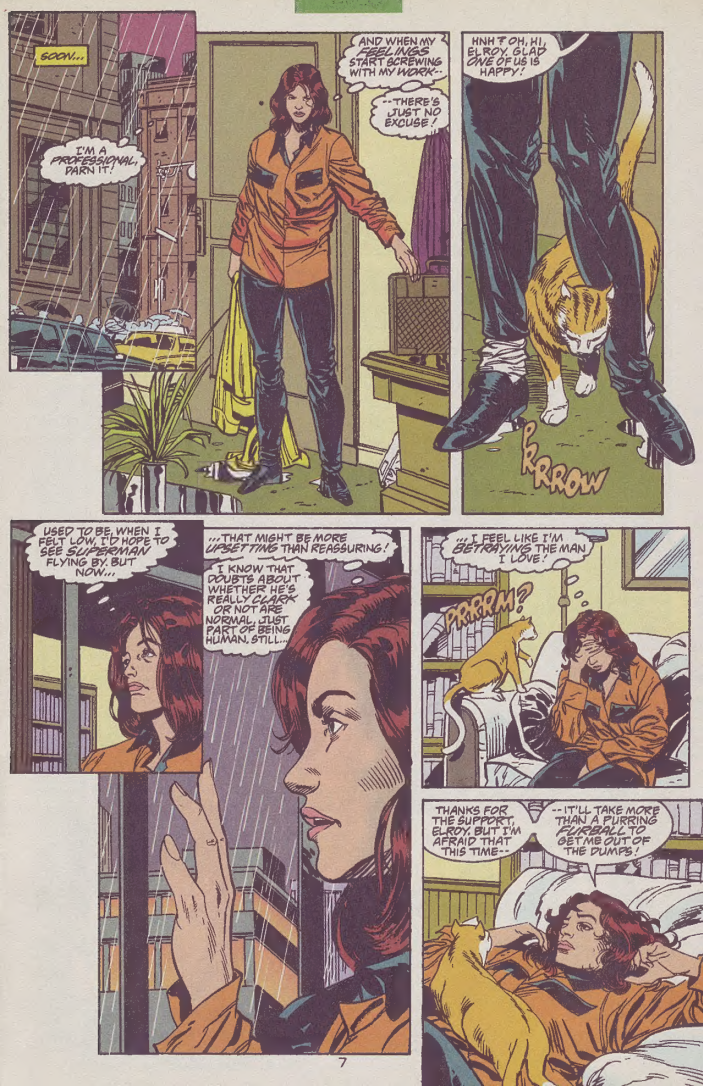
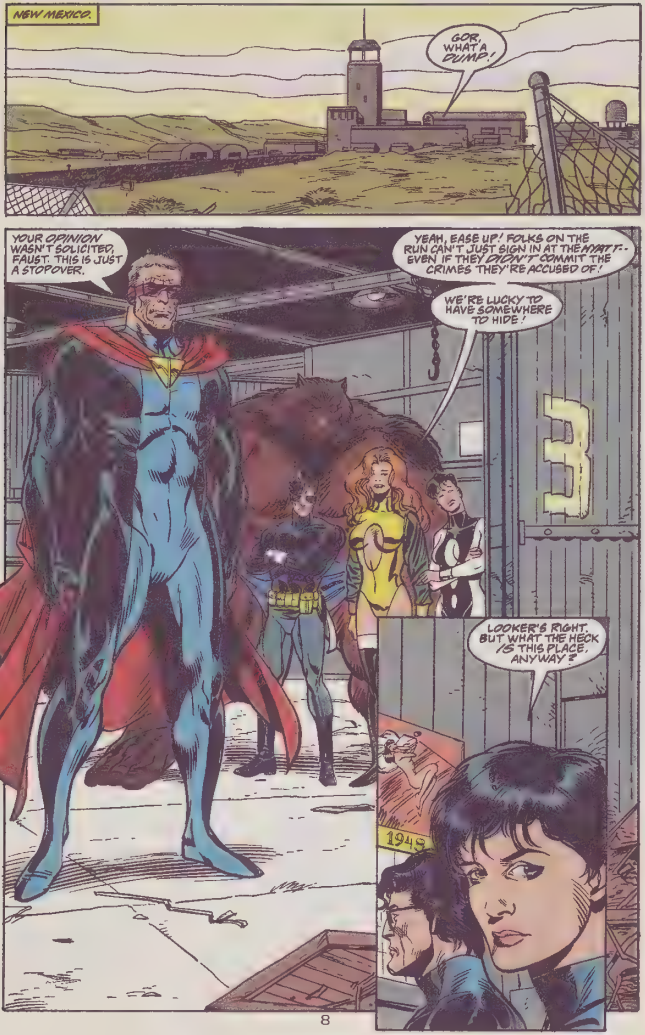

SMALLVILLE.
OF COURSE HE'S THE REAL CLARK!
LAND'S SAKE, JONATHAN, DON'T YOU THINK WE'D KNOW OUR OWN SON?
I... I SUPPOSE. IT'S JUST THAT--
OH, HUSH!
THE WORLD ONLY SEES SUPERMAN. HE'S IN THEIR EYES!
BUT CLARK IS IN OUR HEARTS! NO PRETENDER'S GOING TO PULL A FAST ONE ON US!
SURE. YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M BEING SILLY.
NOW, SHOO! GO CHECK ON BESSIE. SHE'LL BE CALVING ANY DAY.
PUTTIN' UP A PERKY FRONT IS HARD, AN' GETTIN' HARDER! NEVER FELT... SO OLD BEFORE.
BUT THE LAST TIME CLARK "DIED"--
--JON HAD A HEART ATTACK AN' I ALMOST LOST HIM, TOO! LORD, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MANY TRIALS...
... HOW MUCH MORE DO WE HAVE TO TAKE?

METROPOLIS.
TAKING A BREAK, LOIS?
HMM? OH, SORRY, RON. GUESS I'M A LITTLE SPACED! BEEN HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING LATELY.
WHAT'S UP?
PULIT
LITZER
PROOFREADER'S BLOOD PRESSURE. YOU FORGOT TO USE YOUR SPELL-CHECK PROGRAM AGAIN.
THERE'S ONLY ONE "R" IN "ENTRAILS."
OH, MAN!
I HATE THAT!
I HATE IT!
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD, LOIS. MAYBE TOO HARD.
BETTER TAKE THE AFTERNOON OFF.
NO, IT'S OKAY, PERRY. I'LL JUST GET SOME COFFEE AND--
LOIS, THAT WASN'T A SUGGESTION.
SEE YOU TOMORROW.


SOON...
I'M A PROFESSIONAL, DARN IT!
AND WHEN MY FEELINGS START SCREWING WITH MY WORK...
--THERE'S JUST NO EXCUSE!
HNH? OH, HI, ELROY. GLAD ONE OF US IS HAPPY!
PRRROW
USED TO BE, WHEN I FELT LOW, I'D HOPE TO SEE SUPERMAN FLYING BY. BUT NOW...
...THAT MIGHT BE MORE UPSETTING THAN REASSURING!
I KNOW THAT DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER HE'S REALLY GOOD OR NOT ARE NORMAL. JUST PART OF BEING HUMAN. STILL...
...I FEEL LIKE I'M BETRAYING THE MAN I LOVE.
PRRRM?
THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT, ELROY. BUT I'M AFRAID THAT THIS TIME--
--IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A PURRING FURBALL TO GET ME OUT OF THE DUMPS!


NEW MEXICO.
GOR, WHAT A DUMP!
YOUR OPINION WASN'T SOLICITED, FAUST. THIS IS JUST A STOPOVER.
YEAH, EASE UP! FOLKS ON THE RUN CAN'T JUST SIGN IN AT THE MATT-- EVEN IF THEY DIDN'T COMMIT THE CRIMES THEY'RE ACCUSED OF!
WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE SOMEWHERE TO HIDE!
LOOKER'S RIGHT. BUT WHAT THE HECK IS THIS PLACE, ANYWAY?
1945

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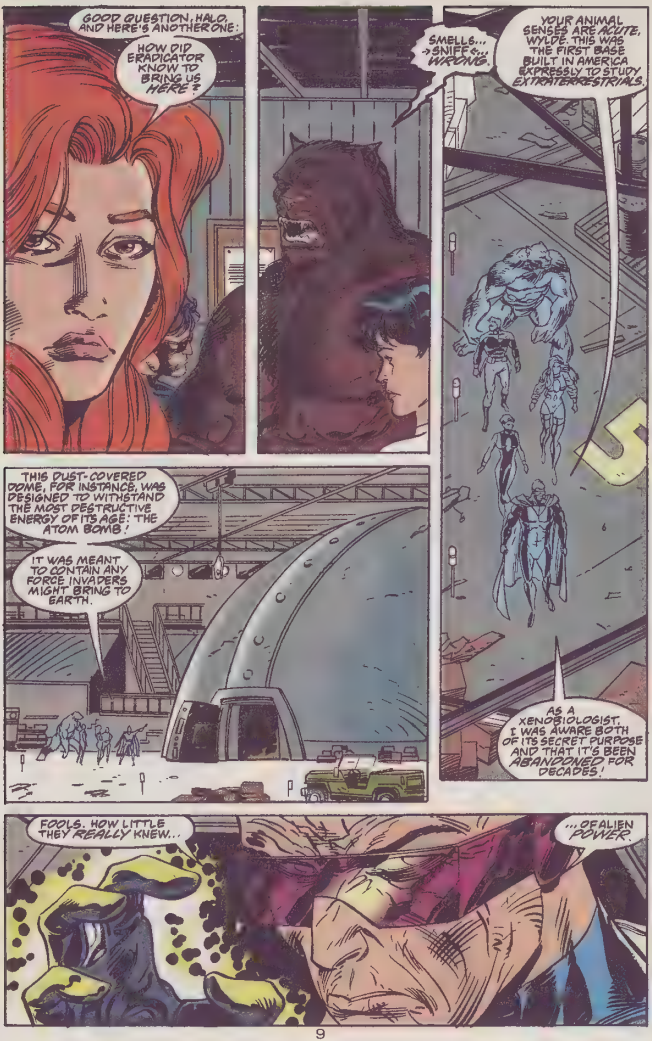
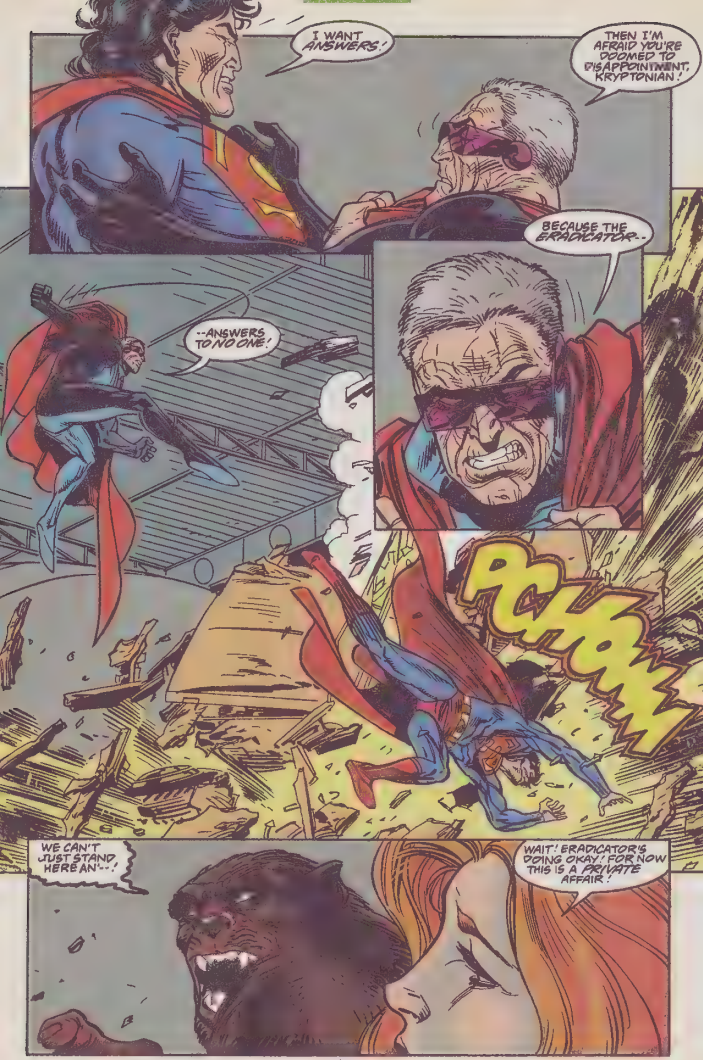
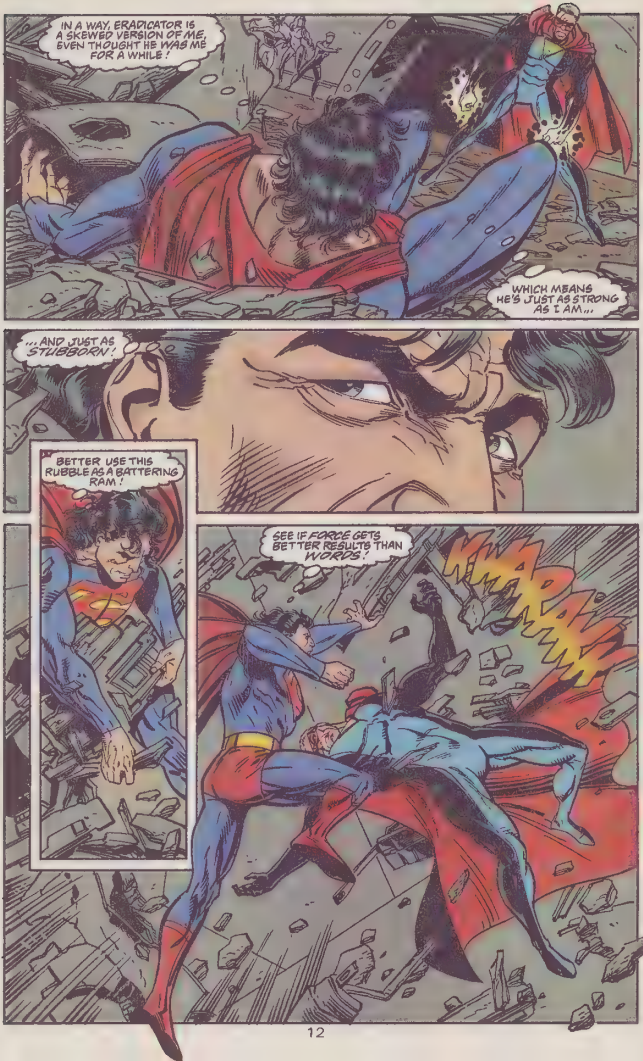
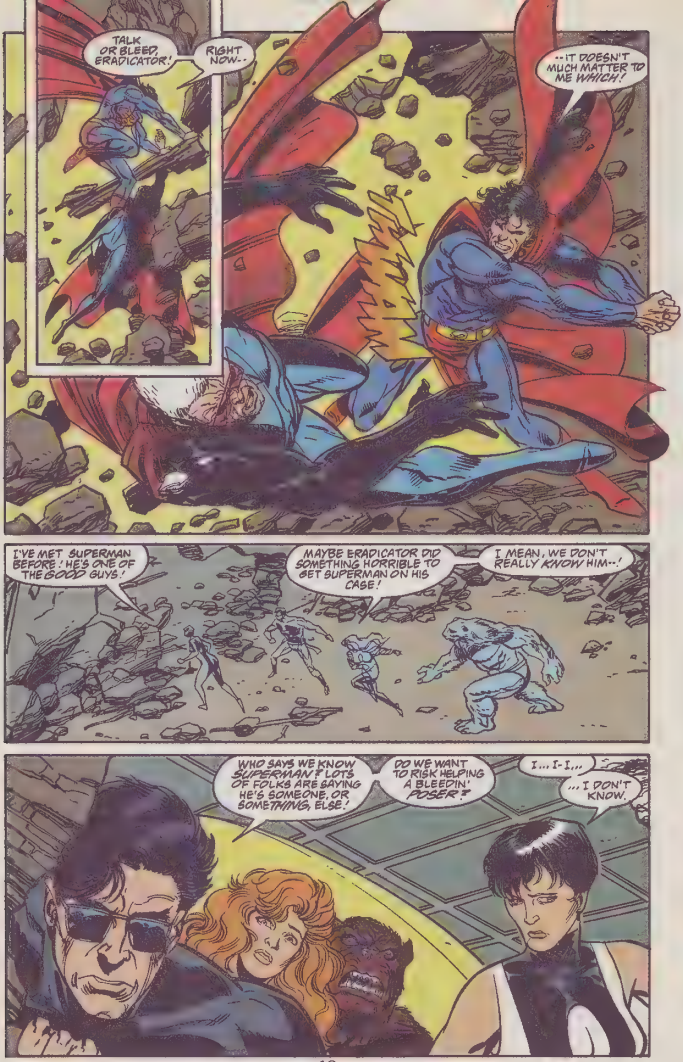
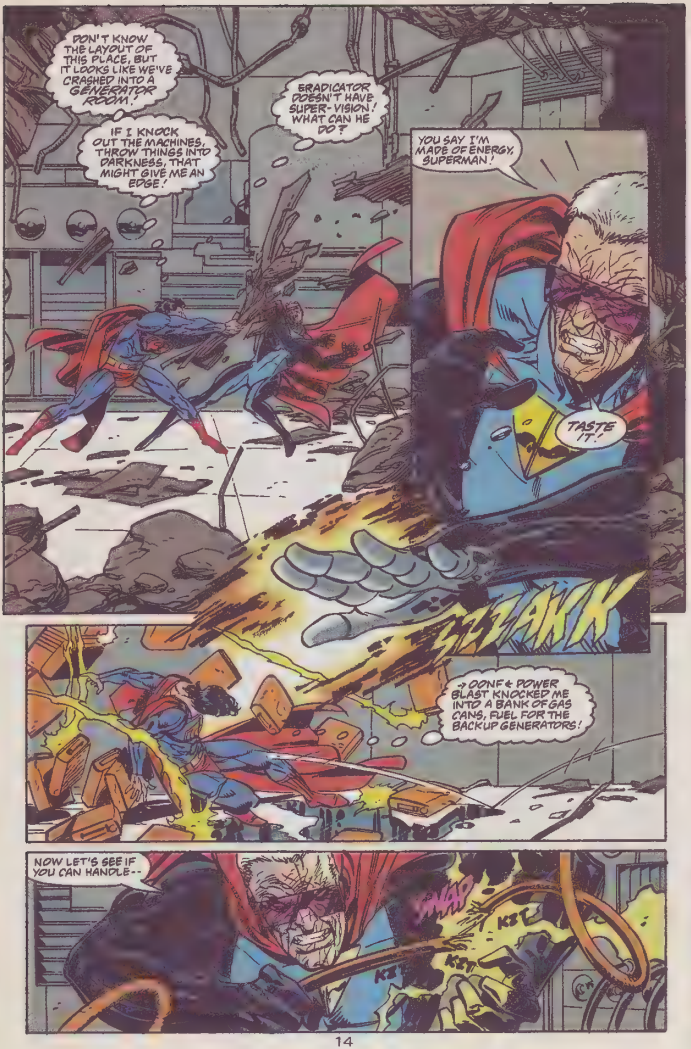

GOOD QUESTION, HALO, AND HERE'S ANOTHER ONE:
HOW DID ERADICATOR KNOW TO BRING US HERE?
SMELLS... →SNIFF←... WRONG.
YOUR ANIMAL SENSES ARE ACUTE, WYLDE. THIS WAS THE FIRST BASE BUILT IN AMERICA EXPRESSLY TO STUDY EXTRATERRESTRIALS.
THIS DUST-COVERED DOME, FOR INSTANCE, WAS DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY OF ITS AGE: THE ATOM BOMB!
IT WAS MEANT TO CONTAIN ANY FORCE INVADERS MIGHT BRING TO EARTH.
AS A XENOBIOLOGIST, I WAS AWARE BOTH OF ITS SECRET PURPOSE AND THAT IT'S BEEN ABANDONED FOR DECADES!
FOOLS. HOW LITTLE THEY REALLY KNEW...
...OF ALIEN POWER.

SKBASH
SUPERMAN?
THE BLOODY COPPERS SICKED HIM ON US?!?
POLICE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS! IT'S... PERSONAL!
BUT HOW--?
YOU'RE MADE OF ENERGY, ERADICATOR! PURE ENERGY!
ONCE I KNEW WHERE TO LOOK, MY SUPER-VISION PICKED UP YOUR DECAY TRAIL EASILY!
WE BETTER HELP!
WHY? ERADICATOR'S A JERK!
YEAH, BUT HE'S OUR JERK!


I WANT ANSWERS!
THEN I'M AFRAID YOU'RE DOOMED TO DISAPPOINTMENT, KRYPTONIAN!
BECAUSE THE ERADICATOR--
--ANSWERS TO NO ONE!
POW
WE CAN'T JUST STAND HERE AN'--!
WAIT! ERADICATOR'S DOING OKAY! FOR NOW THIS IS A PRIVATE AFFAIR!

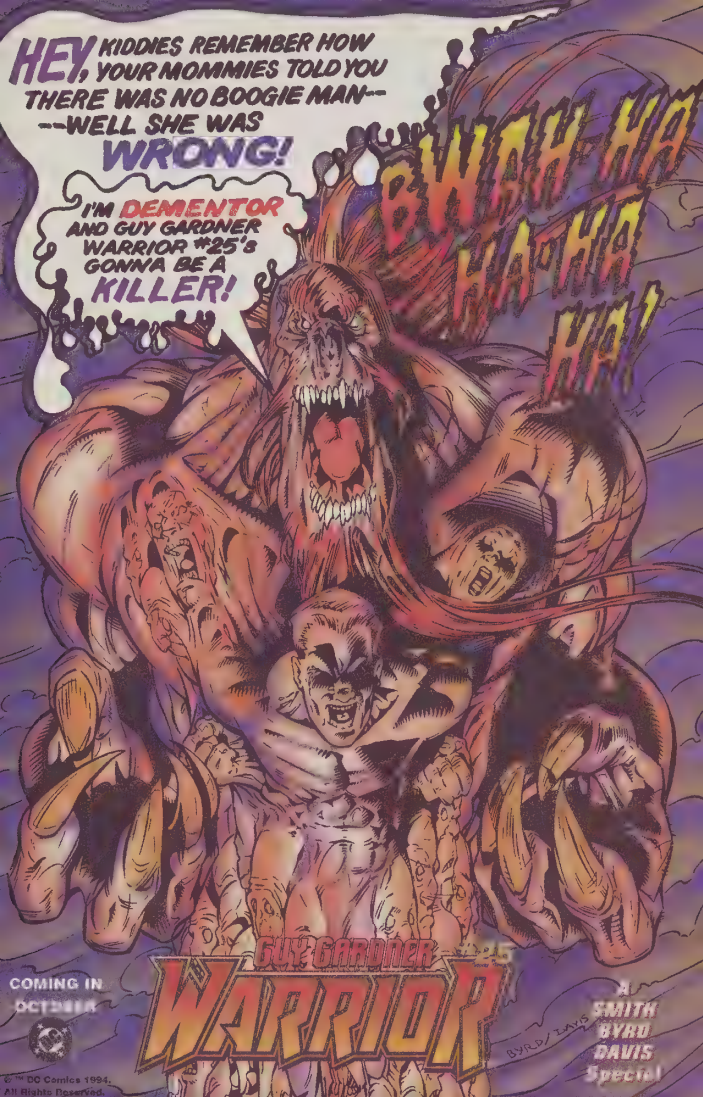

IN A WAY, ERADICATOR IS A SKEWED VERSION OF ME, EVEN THOUGHT HE WAS ME FOR A WHILE!
WHICH MEANS HE'S JUST AS STRONG AS I AM...
...AND JUST AS STUBBORN!
BETTER USE THIS RUBBLE AS A BATTERING RAM!
SEE IF FORCE GETS BETTER RESULTS THAN WORDS!


TALK OR BLEED, ERADICATOR!
RIGHT NOW--
--IT DOESN'T MUCH MATTER TO ME WHICH!
I'VE MET SUPERMAN BEFORE! HE'S ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS!
MAYBE ERADICATOR DID SOMETHING HORRIBLE TO GET SUPERMAN ON HIS CASE!
I MEAN, WE DON'T REALLY KNOW HIM--!
WHO SAYS WE KNOW SUPERMAN? LOTS OF FOLKS ARE SAYING HE'S SOMEONE, OR SOMETHING, ELSE!
DO WE WANT TO RISK HELPING A BLEEDIN' POSER?
I... I-I...
... I DON'T KNOW.


DON'T KNOW THE LAYOUT OF THIS PLACE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE CRASHED INTO A GENERATOR ROOM.
IF I KNOCK OUT THE MACHINES, THROW THINGS INTO DARKNESS, THAT MIGHT GIVE ME AN EDGE!
BRADICATOR DOESN'T HAVE SUPER-VISION! WHAT CAN HE DO?
YOU SAY I'M MADE OF ENERGY, SUPERMAN!
TASTE IT!
SZZAKK
...OONF & POWER BLAST KNOCKED ME INTO A BANK OF GAS CANS, FUEL FOR THE BACKUP GENERATORS!
NOW LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN HANDLE--
KRAK
KT
KT
KT

SMASH
--A LITTLE HEAT!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUPERMAN THIS SAVAGE, THIS RECKLESS--
--AS IF RAGE WERE SHADOWING HIS REASON. BUT IT'S THAT VERY LOSS OF CONTROL--
--THAT'S BROUGHT ABOUT HIS DOOM.
WHA--IN THE FLAMES!
MOVEMENT?!
DOOM IS RELATIVE, ERADICATOR.

ARE YOU READY TO MEET YOURS?


HEY, KIDDIES REMEMBER HOW YOUR MOMMIES TOLD YOU THERE WAS NO BOOGIE MAN--
--WELL SHE WAS WRONG!
I'M DEMENTOR AND GUY GARDNER WARRIOR #25's GONNA BE A KILLER!
BWAH-HA HA-HA HA!
GUY GARDNER #25
WARRIOR
BYRD/DAVIS
A SMITH BYRD DAVIS Special
COMING IN OCTOBER
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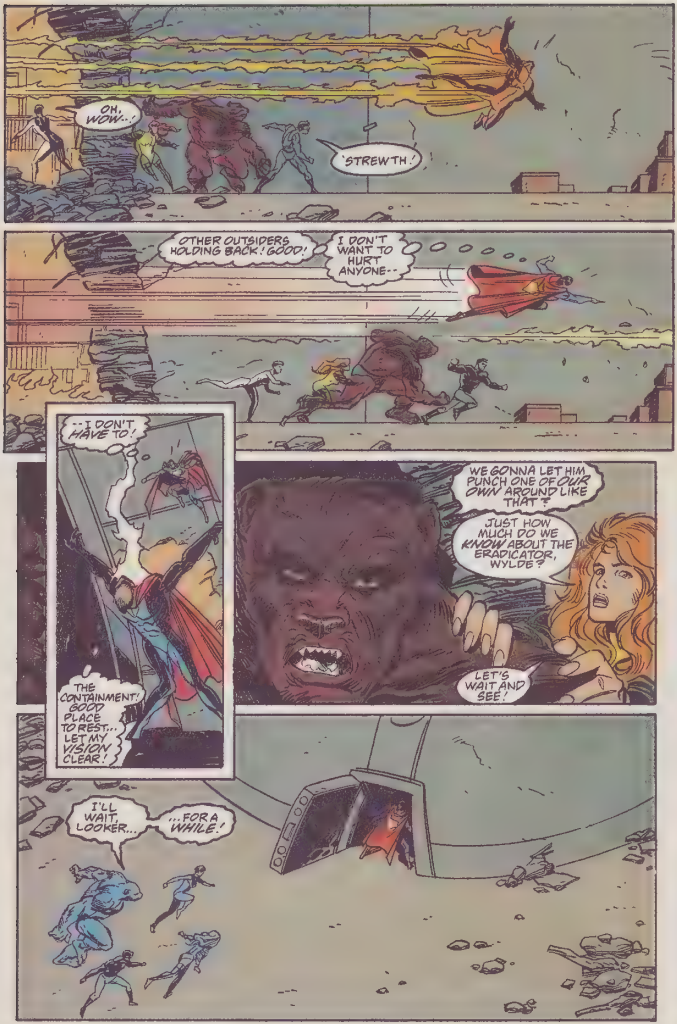
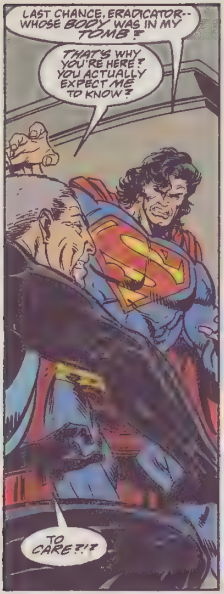
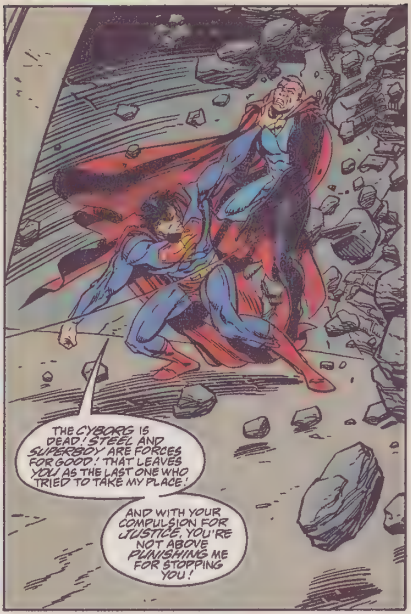
TWO COMMANDERS
TWO CREWS
ONE MISSION
TO EXTINGUISH
A DEADLY THREAT
COMICS
STARTING IN
OCTOBER
DEEP SPACE NINE
STAR TREK
THE NEXT GENERATION

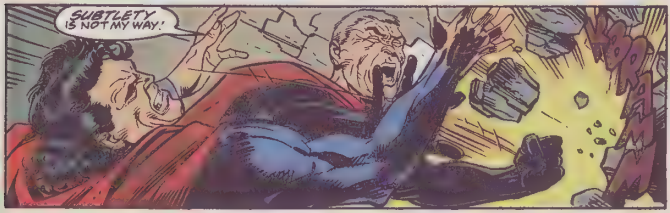
WHEN I DO, KRYPTONIAN, IT WILL COME FROM A SOURCE MIGHTIER THAN YOU!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU NEED MORE CONVINCING!
WHEN YOU'RE READY TO TALK--
WHA--MY VISOR!
...JUST HOLLER!
:AGGH!: H-HEAT VISION! RIGHT IN MY EYES! I-IT...
...TICKLES!
TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW, ERADICATOR! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?
I'VE DONE NOTHING!
WRONG ANSWER!

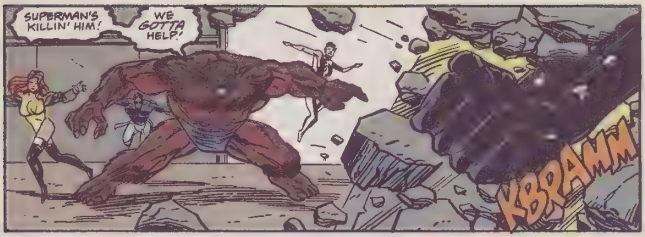

OH, WOW..
'STREWTH!
OTHER OUTSIDERS HOLDING BACK! GOOD!
I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE--
--I DON'T HAVE TO!
THE CONTAINMENT! GOOD PLACE TO REST.. LET MY VISION CLEAR!
WE GONNA LET HIM PUNCH ONE OF OUR OWN AROUND LIKE THAT?
JUST HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE ERADICATOR, WYLDE?
LET'S WAIT AND SEE!
I'LL WAIT, LOOKER...
...FOR A WHILE.

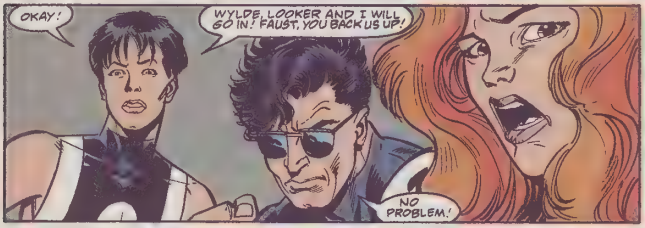

LAST CHANCE, ERADICATOR-- WHOSE BODY WAS IN MY TOMB?
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE? YOU ACTUALLY EXPECT ME TO KNOW?
TO CARE?!?

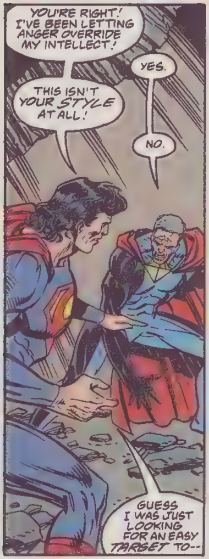

THE CYBORG IS DEAD! STEEL AND SUPERBOY ARE FORCES FOR GOOD! THAT LEAVES YOU AS THE LAST ONE WHO TRIED TO TAKE MY PLACE!
AND WITH YOUR COMPULSION FOR JUSTICE, YOU'RE NOT ABOVE PUNISHING ME FOR STOPPING YOU!

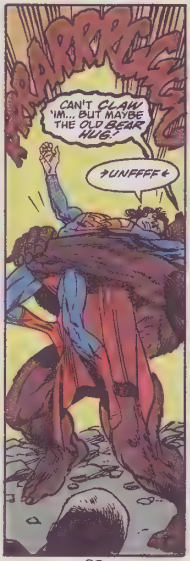
PERHAPS. BUT IF I WANTED TO MESS WITH YOUR BRAIN, I'D MERELY REACH THROUGH YOUR EYE SOCKETS AND SQUASH IT!

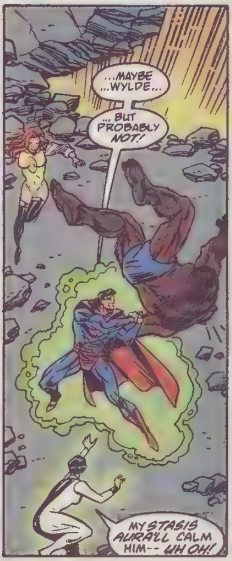

SUBTLETY IS NOT MY WAY!
POW
WHAM


SUPERMAN'S KILLIN' HIM!
WE GOTTA HELP!
KBRAHM

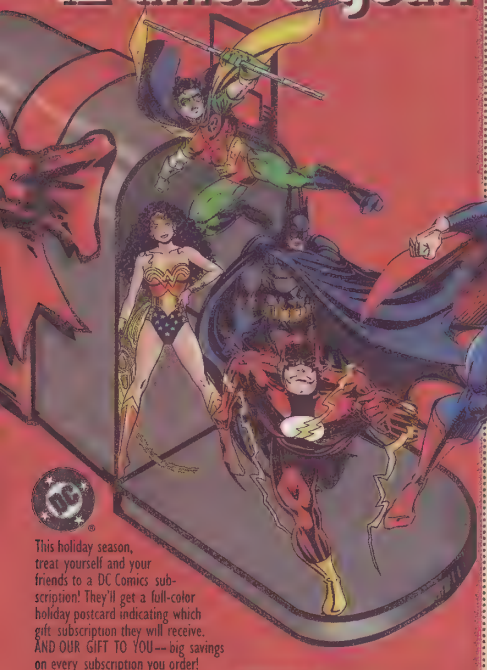

OKAY!
WYLDE, LOOKER AND I WILL GO IN! FAUST, YOU BACK US UP!
NO PROBLEM!


YOU'RE RIGHT! I'VE BEEN LETTING ANGER OVERRIDE MY INTELLECT!
YES.
THIS ISN'T YOUR STYLE AT ALL!
NO.
GUESS I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR AN EASY TARGET TO--


KRAKKKK
CAN'T CLAW 'IM... BUT MAYBE THE OLD BEAR HUG?
UNFFFF


...MAYBE ...WYLDE...
... BUT PROBABLY NOT!
MY STASIS ACRALL CALM HIM-- UH OH!

A Holiday Gift 12 times a year!



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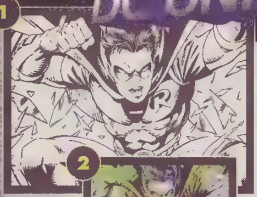
DC UNIVERSE

Comics Coloring Demystified



❶ The process of coloring comics begins when the editor gives reduced photocopies of the original art to the colorist. (The colorist never touches the "real" art!)

❷ The colorist chooses which colors to put where and using dyes, paints, markers and pencils paints them on the photocopied art. The finished paintings, called color guides, never see print (though they do see a lot of coffee stains). We'll soon see why.

❸ All colors in comics are actually combinations of three basic, primary colors: *yellow* (Y), magenta, or *red* (R) and cyan, or *blue* (B). Remember how, in kindergarten, you used to mix blue and yellow to make green? Our printers do the same thing, only on a much more elaborate scale.

❹ In addition to painting them, our colorists also mark our color guides with color codes. Color codes (almost as mind-boggling as the Comics Code) are the "ingredients" that make up the printed colors. Just as the side of a box of macaroni and cheese tells you how much milk, butter, noodles and cheese to mix together to make the food, so too do color codes describe the percentages of each of the three primary colors that, when mixed together, create the printed color. For example: Robin's flesh color is peach. In comics language that's Y25R25: 25% yellow + 25% red. His vest is red, or "YR": 100% yellow + 100% red. (No number after a letter means 100% of that color.) The Boy Wonder's hair is Y25R50B. Can you interpret that code? (Incidentally, colorists have charts that show every color and its corresponding code so they don't have to memorize them!)

❺ Sometimes the colorist blends two colors together. This is known as a color gradation ("grad") or an airbrush effect ("AB"). Let's say you want to make Robin's legs look rounded. By blending a softer shade of green, YB25, into a darker shade, YB, we achieve that effect. Flat coloring is coloring that doesn't utilize any grads. Robin's vest here is colored flat. (Golden and Silver Age comics were mostly flat colored.)

❻ After the guides are coded, the colorist sends them to the editor who checks them for mistakes. The color guides are then sent to a color separator who copies the guides onto computer by following the painted color guides and codes. (We print from the computer-separated color instead of the hand-painted color guides because it is more precise and looks much neater when printed.) The separator sends proofs of the computer color to the editor to check for mistakes. In this box, Robin's vest was incorrectly colored Y by the separator. The editor must mark the proof for correction by the separator or else the error will end up in the printed comic.

❼ Finally, the editor gives the thumbs-up sign for the separator to make the computer color into film. (This film looks just like the negatives you get back with your personal photographs). The comic-book publisher prints the actual comic book from this film, not the color guides the colorist painted. But, if everyone did their job well, the published coloring looks exactly like the hand-painted color guides.

By the way, some comic-book colorists color several 22-page comics every week. Phew!

NEXT WEEK: "Zen Production" (or "Comics and Sanity — Which Goes Out the Door First?")

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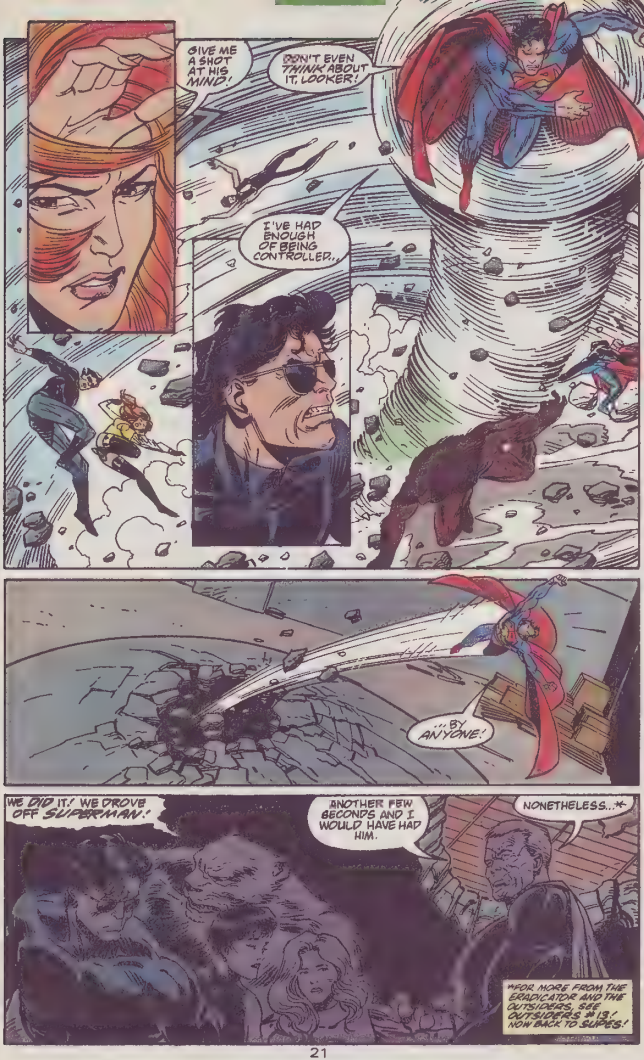
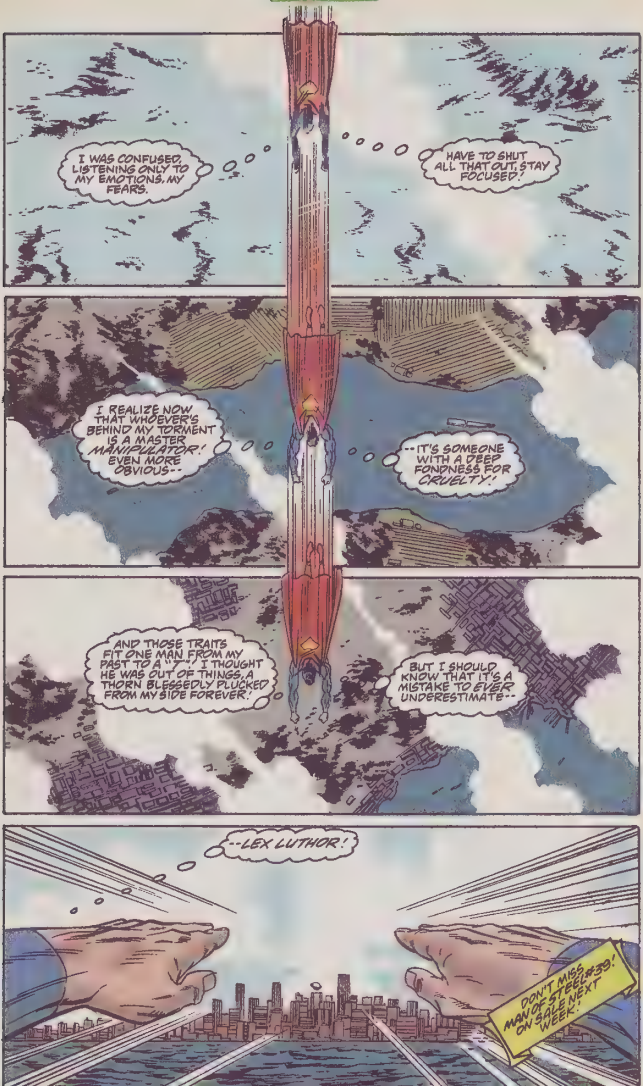

GIVE ME A SHOT AT HIS MIND!
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, LOOKER!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF BEING CONTROLLED...
...BY ANYONE!
WE DID IT! WE DROVE OFF SUPERMAN!
ANOTHER FEW SECONDS AND I WOULD HAVE HAD HIM.
NONETHELESS...*
*FOR MORE FROM THE ERADICATOR AND THE OUTSIDERS, SEE OUTSIDERS #13. NOW BACK TO SUPES!


I WAS CONFUSED, LISTENING ONLY TO MY EMOTIONS, MY FEARS.
HAVE TO SHUT ALL THAT OUT, STAY FOCUSED.
I REALIZE NOW THAT WHOEVER'S BEHIND MY TORMENT IS A MASTER MANIPULATOR! EVEN MORE OBVIOUS--
--IT'S SOMEONE WITH A DEEP FONDNESS FOR CRUELTY!
AND THOSE TRAITS FIT ONE MAN FROM MY PAST TO A "T." I THOUGHT HE WAS OUT OF THINGS, A THORN BLESSEDLY PLUCKED FROM MY SIDE FOREVER.
BUT I SHOULD KNOW THAT IT'S A MISTAKE TO EVER UNDERESTIMATE--
--LEX LUTHOR!
DON'T MISS MAN OF STEEL #39! ON SALE NEXT WEEK!

RE:ACTION

DC COMICS
1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

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BOB ROZAKIS, Executive Director-Production

Dear Mike, Frank, and Chris:

Can it be that ACTION #701 was the perfect follow-up to issue #700? Not since the pre-Byrne days have Superman and Lex gone at it mano a mano (okay, so there was that one time during the Krimson Kryptonite Krisis that Lex punched a depowered Clark) and this issue was an unparalleled celebration regardless of the brutality.

'Tis indeed a pity that Roger wasn't around to partake in this episode, but Karl and Louise scripted a worthy tribute issue undertaking the ACTION title in earnest. Page after page of borderless full-size splash art decorated the interiors, allowing Jackson and Denis to boast their talents. Nonetheless, Metropolis is now devastated; the king dethroned; the memorial smashed. The hero, though, lives on: the ever-vigilant protector.

I haven't cheered this loud since ADVENTURES #500.

Joe Kucharski
Haddon Heights, NJ

About this cheering thing: We recommend that you stock up on throat lozenges before SUPERMAN #100.

*****

Dear Superpeople:

The next story arc I want to see is "Lois and Clark Go on a Sunday Afternoon Picnic, Relax, and Talk about Future Plans, Uninterrupted."

I'm exhausted and I'm sure Supes, Perry, Jimmy, etc. are too, from all these city-shaking events of late. Great stories but my ears are ringing.

Donald R. Smith
Lancaster, NY

Ears ringing? You haven't been standing too close to Joe Kucharski, have you?

*****

Dear ACTION crew:

With the threat of Lex Luthor being put on hiatus for a while in ACTION #701, I find myself giving a sigh of relief. I know Lex is Superman's greatest, deadliest foe, but it was about time he was given a rest for a while. Now you can build on Supes's rogues gallery. Add some new faces, and enhance and develop some old ones. I was glad to see Bizarro and the Parasite in recent months, and as a fairly new Supes fan, I'd like to get further acquainted with his old enemies. Brainiac, Starro, and Mr. Mxyzptlk all come to mind.

ACTION COMICS #701

As for ACTION #701 itself, the battle was one of the best since the first Doomsday struggle (though the recent SUPERMAN/DOOMSDAY takes the cake). Karl Kesel and Louise Simonson crafted a fine story, but I feel Jackson Guice and Denis Rodier deserve the spotlight this time around. This was their best work to date, and I can't help but make the Jack Kirby connection. The images they are creating are just as powerful as his were/are (it's tough to think of him in the past tense), and it's only fitting they work on the longest-running comic book of all time (I think). They're definitely the most underrated artists in the business, and I'm sure they will mesh with David Michelinie as well as they did with Roger Stern.

Henry R. Kujawa
Camden, NJ

We think they do, Henry. Yourself?

*****

Dear Superteam:

No!! Kill Luthor! Let him die! Don't give him the cure! Let him die! Call in Jean Paul Valley or something! Don't let Luthor live!!!

Marcus Moore
Devon, England

P.S. Get the message?

Why? Do you owe the guy money or something?

*****

Re: ACTION #701

No! No, not again! You can't do this! You can't kill Lex Luthor!

Susan Goodfellow
Enon, OH

Why? Does the guy owe you money or something?

*****

Dear Chris, Frank, and Mike:

I'm disgusted with myself after reading ACTION COMICS #701. I consider myself a pretty detail-oriented person, yet I didn't give a second thought to what had happened to the Kryptonian Battle Suit after SUPERMAN #81. DISGUSTING! Oh sure, I could say that I was so swept up with the excitement of seeing Superman again or that the rush to get to Coast City was foremost in my mind, but those are only excuses. I don't know if I'll ever be able to forgive myself.

Kevin Hall
Sandston, VA

Would a Baldy help? We don't want any self-hating fans out there, and your vehemence shows you really do care about

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the details. So the Baldy is yours. Next time, though, don't go so hard on yourself. After all, when Steel took the Battle Suit out during the "Reign of the Supermen," for all you know it was permanently deactivated. There we go—now we're making excuses for you!

*****

Dear DC:

I have only just started reading your comic, and I love it. I find it hard to get your comic over here in England. Please, can I ask you some questions?

1. How come your comic is the best?

2. Will there be a wedding for Lois and Clark?

3. Will Doomsday ever come back?

Vicky Clarke
Manchester, England

1. Only the finest ingredients. Oh, and it's mountain-grown, too.

2. Someday, yes. They're engaged and devoted to each other, but haven't set a date yet. (C'mon, it took 'em over 50 years to get engaged...what's the rush all of a sudden?)

3. Maybe...how about as "best monster" at the wedding?

*****

Dear DC:

I'll make this short and sweet. ACTION #701 was incredible!!! I haven't been enjoying "The Fall of Metropolis" storyline, but #701 made me say, "WOW!" The artwork was fantastic. The other three SUPERMAN titles should adopt your style. Often, their artwork is a bit left of bull's-eye. Now, get back to work and keep me impressed.

Scott T. Summers
Green Pond, NJ

*****

Dear Super People:

Re: ACTION #701

This issue took me all of about five minutes to read. I have nothing against full-page panels except when an issue contains ten of them plus a two-page spread. As a reader, I almost feel cheated due to the lack of dialogue and plot. To make matters worse, almost the entire issue was just one big fight. I hope DC isn't having an "image" problem. I don't mind good artwork, but a lot of other things make a great comic book, and it doesn't seem fair that one element should take precedence over another.

As for what little story there was, even Lex seemed shocked at the amount of destruction caused by his fail-safes. I believe he really did intend them to protect and defend the city. Unfortunately, with Lex out of commission, he was unable to keep his creations from getting out of hand. His attempt to destroy Superman was a result of his belief that the Man of Steel is the cause of his problems. Actually, he's right. If Superman hadn't stuck his nose into Lex's business, none of this would have happened. Of course things in Metropolis might not have been quite as interesting over the past few years.

Finally, since this appears to be the last we'll be seeing of Lex for a while, I just hope that his leave of absence will give him ample time to make a complete recovery. He will be sorely missed while he is gone, and I'll be counting the days until he returns.

Thomas V. Accardo
Brooklyn, NY

I don't think you can say we have an "image problem," Tom, if after a solid year of subplots, tight scripting, and plenty of dialogue, we cut loose for one issue to highlight a particular fight. It's a weekly comic, after all—multi-panel pages were back only seven days after ACTION #701 got you all het up. Admit it, though, wasn't it fun to see Guice and Rodier's art featured so big and impressive? Didn't you like it a teensy bit?

*****

Dear Editors:

ABSOLUTELY STUNNING!! These were the first words that crossed my mind regarding ACTION COMICS #701. The art team of Mr. Guice and Mr. Rodier created possibly the best issue to date (especially pages 10, 11, 13, and the unforgettable 21). A raise is in order for these gentlemen, Mike!

As for Roger Stern, I'm gonna miss the guy. He was my favorite Super-writer and I wish him the best of luck in the future. On the other hand, I hear David Michelinie is taking over. A wise move, indeed.

Well, gotta fly. Keep making stunning comics and you'll have a stunned reader for life. (Maybe I should reword that...)

Tim Brown
Welland, Ontario
Canada

That's okay, Tim. We like our readers stunned. Makes for easy prey when we letter hunters do a column. Gotcha!

—Chris Duffy
Put another log on the fire.
We eat tonight!

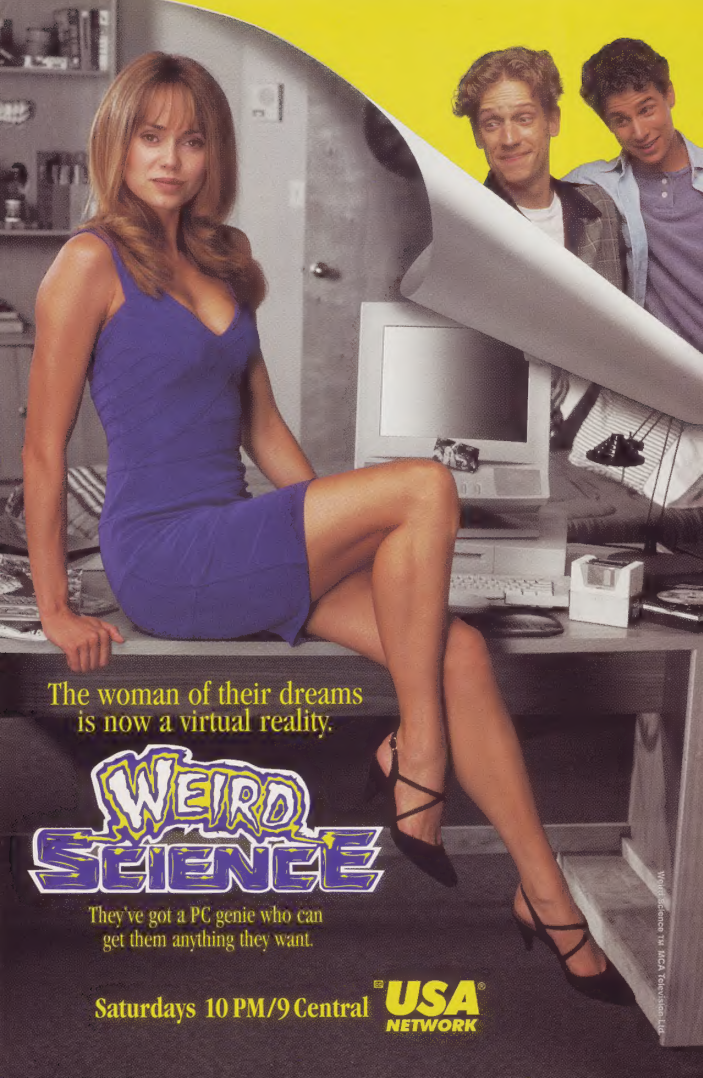
IN ONE WEEK: Okay, so the Eradicator didn't put the dead Superman in Superman's tomb. In MAN OF STEEL #39, the live Superman chases down another lead—can this be another of Luthor's brainchildren? Meanwhile, Keith locates his mother at long last, but it may be just in time to lose her again! Seven days until Weezie, Bog, and Janke bring you this yarn of desperation and hope.

IN TWO WEEKS: In SUPERMAN #95, we're off to New Genesis to check out another suspect in the case of "Who put that unsightly short-haired corpse in my tomb?" And this time the Atom is along for the ride! But why is this hero the cause of so much chaos? In fourteen days you'll see that Dan Jurgens isn't really done with ZERO HOUR! And Mike (Bat-Team) Manley pitches in on finished art!

IN THREE WEEKS: In ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #518, Darkseid welcomes Superman to Apokolips. In this case it means the Man of Steel must do battle with every murderous minion of that dark lord in order to check out a fourth suspect body swapper! You'll get some straight answers from Kesel, Kitson, and McCarthy in twenty-one days!

IN FOUR WEEKS: In ACTION #705, Superman is at his most desperate and Metropolis is scared! He thinks he knows who's behind the Super-corpse, and he's going over the edge trying to prove it! And, oh yes, can you say "shock ending"? Michelinie, Guice, and Rodier can—in twenty-eight days!

"Let's you and me settle this OUTSIDE!" On this week's cover, Kryptonian survivor threatens Kryptonian energy turned human —courtesy of artist Jackson Guice, colorist Suzanne Bourdages, and color separator Brett Breeding.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